

June 2012

From the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS)

The SEAS Monitor

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well. This is the June issue of *The SEAS Monitor*. It covers my activities during the month of June. *The Monitor* is a way for me to keep you informed about my work as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. Please click here for [previous copies](#).

I encourage you to “Like” my page on Facebook: “Hannah Rosenthal, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.” When you “Like” a page on Facebook, it will be listed under your “Activities and Interests” tab, which can be found in your Info section. If my page is updated, the update will appear on your News Feed on your homepage.

Be sure to follow our postings entitled “Here’s What We’re Hearing: Anti-Semitism News Updates.” It is through these updates that we monitor global incidents of anti-Semitism. “Here’s What We’re Hearing: Jewish World News Updates” contains relevant news regarding positive efforts to promote tolerance and inter-religious cooperation.

Please enjoy and keep in touch.

Warm regards,
Hannah

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EVENTS:

Diversity, Inclusion, and U.S. Foreign Policy

The U.S. Department of State hosted a wisdom session in cooperation with the International Society for Diversity and Inclusion Professionals and the Society for Human Resource Management on June 7. I participated on the first panel about diplomatic initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion worldwide, and discussed *2012 Hours Against Hate*, the initiative by Farah Pandith and me to promote tolerance and mutual respect for diversity around the world.

Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Holocaust Remembrance Program

In an effort to remind OMB's staff of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference reign, OMB hosts an annual Holocaust Remembrance Program. I was honored to deliver the opening remarks for this year's Program, "Living Testimony: One Man's Personal History" on June 7. Robert Behr, a Holocaust survivor, and U.S. Holocaust Museum Senior Scholar-in-Residence, Steven Katz, Ph.D., were also featured in this year's program.

DRL's 35th Anniversary

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's 35th Anniversary celebration, "Human Rights in Focus" took place on June 8. There were panels reflecting three eras of

DRL: The Early Years; After the Wall Came Down; and From 9/11 to the Arab Awakening. Panelists included: Ambassador Tom Pickering, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, 1997-2000; Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary, 1981-1985; Dr. Tamara Wittes, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, 2009-2012; and other former and current Department officials involved in the evolution of U.S. human rights policy. [Watch videos from the event](#) featuring Secretary Clinton, Deputy Secretary Burns, and panel discussions.

Global Young Leaders Conference

On June 27, I addressed approximately 300 American and international students between the ages of 15 and 18 as part of the [Global Young Leaders Conference](#) (GYLC), at the State Department. The goal of GYLC is to help these students gain a greater appreciation and understanding of their role and potential as leaders. After I discussed my role as the Special Envoy, students from South Africa, Australia, Colombia, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Territories asked important questions.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:

Wroxton, England

The University of Fairleigh Dickinson University Wroxton College in England, hosted me on June 24, during the 9th Biennial Stephen S. Weinstein Holocaust Symposium about Revisiting Anti-Semitism. I spoke and led a session on "The 'New Anti-Semitism' of the late 20th & Early 21st Centuries." The topics at the symposium included: "Revisiting the Links between Genocide and the Holocaust", "Rethinking Holocaust Humor", "New Research and Perspectives on Rape during the Holocaust" and "Revisiting Anti-Semitism: The New Anti-Semitism." The audience included academics and practitioners from all over the world, and we had a lively discussion.



DOMESTIC OUTREACH:

Holocaust Remembrance Project

On June 28, I was the keynote speaker at the 18th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Project Awards Dinner. The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation hosted the event at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse in Boston. The Holocaust Remembrance Project, which includes a national college scholarship competition for high school students, is designed to encourage and promote the study of the Holocaust and serve as a living memorial to the millions of victims of the Holocaust. Students, teachers, Holocaust survivors, and members of the Jewish community were in attendance.



MEDIA:

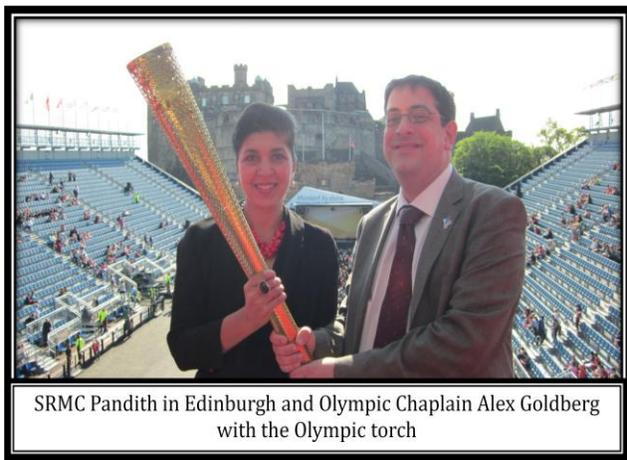
Statement on Anti-Semitism in Hungary

Anti-Semitic acts and discriminatory statements have increased recently in Hungary. These include a verbal assault against a 90-year old retired rabbi, the defacement of several Holocaust memorials and a Jewish cemetery, and repeated anti-Semitic statements from the far-right Jobbik party. I released a [statement](#) on June 20 condemning the events and urging the government to speak out against anti-Semitism every time an incident occurs.

2012 Hours Against Hate

The joint initiative I embarked on last year with Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith – *2011 Hours Against Hate* – was approved by the London Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee to encourage greater diversity and community engagement during the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. We first presented this campaign at the Archbishop of Canterbury’s International Social Innovation and Social

Action Faith Conference in November of 2011. As a result of this meeting, several of the groups with whom we met filed an application with the London Olympic Organizing Committee to have *2012 Hours Against Hate* branded with the Olympics logo as a way to get athletes and fans alike participating in combating hate and leveraging the energy surrounding the 2012 Olympics.



Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith visited Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland June 13-15 to promote the *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign among local officials, schools, and interfaith groups. The campaign is partnered with the 2012 London Olympic Games, and Farah's visit was timed to capitalize on the passing of the Olympic torch through Scotland. During her visit, she and partners from the interfaith community gave interviews to journalists from *The Scotsman* and BBC

Scotland. They met with local Baha'i and Muslim leaders to discuss their involvement with the broader Scottish community, and visited Shawlands Academy, a school piloting a number of programs devoted to banishing bullying, racism, and other forms of prejudice and hate. Throughout the visit, interlocutors responded positively to the *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign and were eager to discuss their efforts to combat intolerance.

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

Meetings with U.S. Ambassadors

On June 6, I met with U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Sam Kaplan to discuss Jewish heritage in Morocco and future collaboration. I also met with U.S. Ambassador-designate to Estonia Jeffrey Levine on June 7, to share my experiences in Estonia in November. On June 14, I met with U.S. Ambassador-designate to Latvia Mark Pekala to discuss my recent visit to Latvia and future collaboration. On June 19, I met with U.S. Ambassador to Portugal Allan Katz, about Portugal's planned Holocaust Conference in October.

International Visitor Leadership Program

Along with DRL Assistant Secretary Mike Posner and Deputy Assistant Secretary Dan Baer, I participated in a session of an International Visitor Leadership Program with civil society activists, lawyers, government press officers, journalists and Members of Parliament from Brazil, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe on June 19. I

talked about how the Olympics came to partner with our *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign and took questions from the group.

Hungarian Government Commissioner

I met with András Levente Gál, Commissioner of Good Governance of the Hungarian Ministry of Public Administration and Justice on June 26 to discuss recent developments in Hungary and the Government's steps to counter anti-Semitism. He was accompanied by György Szabó, President of the Board of Trustees of Mazsók (Jewish Heritage of Hungary Public Endowment) and David Böhm, an advisor from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Gál stressed his government's actions against anti-Semitism and efforts to promote tolerance in Hungary. As noted in my statement of June 20, I remain concerned that the Government of Hungary is not addressing these areas sufficiently, especially by not speaking out against Jobbik statements and by including four anti-Semitic writers in its school curricula. I look forward to visiting Hungary in July and seeing the situation for myself.

Meeting with Hungarian NGO

On June 27, I met with Daniel Bodnar and Andras Heisler of Hungary. They have founded a new Action and Protection Foundation to address the needs of the Hungarian Jewish community. Their focus is on the areas of legal protection, education, monitoring and reporting, and community self-defense. In addition to our meeting, they met with Jewish communities and organizations in New York and Washington. What makes their foundation different is their attempt to build bridges between different Jewish groups, in this case, the Neolog and Orthodox communities. I look forward to following their progress.

TRAINING:

Foreign Service Institute

Raising internal awareness of anti-Semitism is a critical part of my role as Special Envoy. On June 14, I addressed a "Religion and Foreign Policy" course at the Foreign Service Institute. Participants included Foreign Service and Civil Service Officers from the Department of State and other agencies.

STAFF CHANGES:

Welcome Kendra Young, Josh Bancroft, and our summer interns Abigail Bellows and Sarah Fewer!

Kendra Young holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Howard University. She started her career as a Training Technician within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She became an Environmental Protection Assistant in 2008, also within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She began working in the Bureau of Democracy, Human, and Labor in January.

Joshua Bancroft is pursuing his Masters in Social Work at Catholic University. He received his Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, where he focused on the interplay between religion and democracy. He spent a year studying Arabic in Cairo, Egypt, and has previously worked on democracy and human rights at the State Department, as well as holding other positions in public affairs and private-sector consulting.

Abigail Bellows is a Master in Public Policy candidate at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where she focuses on governance and diplomacy. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Abigail has served as a community organizer and consultant at the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, Jewish Funds for Justice, American Jewish World Service, and Dalit Foundation (India). As the granddaughter of a Holocaust refugee, Abigail is honored to contribute to our important work fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred.

Sara Fewer is a graduate student at the Goldman School of Public Policy and the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, where she is focusing on developing policies and programs to advance women's political empowerment and health around the world. Her professional experience includes Public Communications Program Manager at Futures Without Violence (formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund.) A skilled organizer, Sara also has mobilized donors, voters, and candidates at EMILY's List and on local campaigns in her hometown of San Francisco, CA. Sara holds a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College and currently serves on the steering committee for the Goldman School's Students of Color in Public Policy.

Debra Eichenbaum began her first Presidential Management Fellowship rotation to the Department of Homeland Security.

You may contact us at SEASinfo@state.gov.

INTERNET OUTREACH:

Facebook

 www.facebook.com/SERosenthal

Once you are signed into Facebook, search for my name and title: Hannah Rosenthal, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat anti-Semitism. The "Like" button is at the top of my page and has a thumbs-up symbol. The symbol disappears once you have "Liked" the page.

State.gov

Aside from following me on Facebook, I encourage all of you to visit my page on the Department of State's website (www.state.gov/j/drl/seas). You can quickly find my page by clicking [here](#). Or you can follow these instructions: Begin by going to the Department of State's homepage: www.state.gov. Then, click on the "Democracy and Global Affairs" tab in the white toolbar. Then, click on "Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL)," and then click on "Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism" in the left vertical column. Here you will find information about my office, as well as remarks, press releases, past issues of *The Monitor*, photos, and information about the *2011 Hours Against Hate* campaign.

HumanRights.gov

I also encourage you to visit HumanRights.gov, which is the U.S. government's official website for human rights related information. You can access the homepage [here](#), and you can access my personal page [here](#).

Twitter

Please also follow me on twitter! You can find me at:  [@HannahAtState](https://twitter.com/HannahAtState).